

GOOD WORD FOR THE TURK

HE'S NOT SO BLACK NOR THE AR-
MENIAN SO WHITE AS PAINTED.

The Rev. Mr. MacQueen of Boston Says the Missionaries Have Grossly Misrepresented the Situation

The Rev. Peter MacQueen, a Congregationalist minister of Boston, has brought back from Turkey some very vivid impressions of Minister Terrell, the missionaries, the Armenians, the Turks, and the troubles of that much troubled country, and his impressions are altogether different from what he expected them to be when he set out on his journey. Mr. MacQueen left Boston some months ago to go to Athens in behalf of the Boston Athletic Association and to King George a poem, "Our Laureled Sons," written by a Hellenist, Henry O'Meara, in commemoration of the Olympic games held at Athens last spring. "Go his way home he

"I went ten days in Constantinople," "I went to Turkey," said Mr. MacQueen yesterday, "filled with strong prejudices against Minister Terrell and the Turks, and in favor of the Armenians and the missionaries. My prejudices against Minister Terrell have disappeared altogether, against the Turks they are not nearly so strong as they were. I have not the same sympathy for the Armenians that I had, and my feelings toward the missionaries, too, have changed somewhat. You know that all sorts of stories have come here about Minister Terrell. He has become a Mohammedan. He has refused to protect Americans. He has treated the missionaries harshly, and

"But, you know," said Mr. MacQueen, smiling, "most of them are somewhat narrow-minded and bigoted, and while they may have thought themselves perfectly honest they did the United States Minister a great injustice. The unanimous opinion of the foreign residents in Constantinople is that he has represented this coun-

by a most able manner and given adequate protection to Americans. I saw and talked with Miss Clara Barton, and she said to me: No one can represent America better than Mr. Terrell.'"

"I stayed at the house of an Englishman, a free-trader, who has lived in Constantinople for thirty years, and he told me that the Americans in Turkey were the best protected of any people. He gave several reasons for this. One was that Turkey had no fear of Americans or Americans interfering with national affairs, but he chief one was the indefatigable energy of Mr. Terrell. I have heard since my return that the latest story of Mr. Terrell's becoming a Mohammedan has been refuted. I had some Italian

with him on the subject of religion. He is a very good Oriental scholar, and has made a deep study of Mohammedanism. He told me that the jarring of the various Protestant sects had made him give up all religion. To that extent he is a follower of the prophet. In speaking of his work there he told me frankly that in settling troubles he used his own judgment and did his best to keep from embroiling his Government in petty cases that came before him. "I found the Turks not nearly so detestable as we have been led to believe they are from time immemorial. The lower classes seemed to be honest and good-natured. The official class found most courteous and seemingly anxious

to what is right." A young Englishman remarked that the (indistinct) denunciation of the Armenians was not new to him, so much as he is painted. Miss Barton told me that she had been aided in every conceivable way by the Sultan since the very day of her arrival. She said that not only had he granted all her requests, but that he had done many things for her and the Red Cross Association of his own relation. During her residence in Constantinople, she witnessed the persecution in one of the Armenian cities, and she said that she had been in the vicinity where her men were. They became separated into two parties. The Sultan sent for Miss Barton and told her what had happened. She said that she had been in the city, and she told him to protect her people, and he replied that that had been done already.

The Red Cross people were protected by Turkish soldiers whereas they were not. When the Armenians were persecuted, the reports were

undermanned. This was because a bundle of Armenian papers had arrived containing Talat's orders to the military governor of the Sultan. Seven days after, when the Turkish authorities learned who Talmage was and that his speech was not the equivalent to a declaration of war, the order was rescinded. As for the Sultan, said Miss Barton, so he told me, two special machines for disinfecting hospitals, and sent word that he was ready to give her anything else that she wanted. So she said, "I don't want anything more."

"As to the Armenian trouble, there are two sides too. Of course, the misrule has been something terrible, and has been going on for twenty-five years. But the Turk is really a very good man. He is a very good money-getter and the money-louder of Turkey, and that accounts for a great deal of the hatred toward him. An Armenian, a member of the Revolution-

tion to use dynamite in the city, and see that they have begun it. To illustrate the Armenian character, let me tell you a little story. You know that there have already been arrested, you know the richest bankers in Constantinople are Armenians. The revolutionary committee wanted to raise a large fund, and they had a list of the names of the rich. They should each donate 100,000 francs to the cause. These men proved to be very unwilling to do so, and the committee sent bravos about to intimidate them. One of them, however, was called in his own doorstep for refusing to give to the cause. The culprits were caught, five of them were hanged. There was a fearful hubbub, and then about the cruelty of the Turk. I remember this case. This was a revolutionary friend. He said that such methods were perfectly right. The cause needed money, and it could be raised by any other method black mail or otherwise.

"What do you think of the missionaries and the way they live?" asked the reporter.

Mr. MacQueen laughed and said:

"* There are 178 missions in Turkey and its dependencies and 178 kinds of missionary activity. Men, who know more about the affairs of the world than I do, would be able to tell you more about this. I can tell you that most of the missionaries are sent out by the Congregational Church, of which I am a minister, and I can't say much, I suppose, of value to you as an actress, about the men and women there like the late Mrs. Hammond and her three daughters, Prof. Washburn of Roberts College, and Mrs. Trowbridge,

"Hail, I suppose the work done in Harpoot, Hailu, Seltun, and Van is beneficial. But I don't think in all of the average run of missionaries, there is much in it much good. They make very few converts, I fear; and, for that matter, as we in the Congregational Church admit, the Armenian Church is the oldest in the world. The real apostles of the East were the Jews, the Greeks, the Armenians, and Mohammedans, leaving a few things, seems to me to be a very good sort of a religion. Polygamy is, of course, one of the objectionable features. I think that the Armenians are a very distinctly good and some of them are very poor, but all of them, or nearly all (Mr. Macquenne corrected himself quickly), are disagreeable. They are very self-minded and I suppose I think most of the self-indulgent and really stupid things they report. But I am heterodox in the report of missions.

"

Urkey was the way in which all Englishmen were talking about a league or alliance with this country. Wherever I met them that was the way they talked of it. I never understood until the Russian revolution, very much, but at the Porte. But at the same time the Englishmen if driven hard enough will confess that England, in the event of an alliance, will be the weaker party. I have seen the English in other words were to pull chestnuts out of the fire for England. And they seem to think it strange that America does not jump at the chance of such an alliance. I have never seen a speaking of his mission to Greece Mr. Macquenn said:

"The Americans who took part in the Olympic Games left a most favorable impression on the Greeks. King George told me that he hoped that American athletes would do all they could to

adium will be completely restored in three days and will undoubtedly be the finest athletic field in the world. The seats will be of white brick, and there will be accommodations for 5,000 persons."

Where Yesterday's Fire Were.
A. M. - 1:45, 84 Avenue C, Carl Gross, damage \$100.
P. M. - 1:45, 1,840 Third avenue, Rafael Balo, damage \$50.
P. M. - 2:30, 275 West Fifty third street, Charles Kreindler, damage \$50.

ELINT'S FINE FURNITURE
Bargains in Drapery Stuffs.